Georges Marcel Victor Thielen, et al. )

For: SILICA FILLED MULTI- )

VISCOELASTIC RESPONSE )

RUBBER )

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Examiner: Lee, Rip A.

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calyn Kelly) (Date of Signature

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

4

In response to the Office Action mailed June 11, 2003, Applicants respond as follows.

## Remarks

## Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Colvin et al., EP 0 942 042 (Colvin EP '042), or in the alternative over Colvin EP'042 in view of Zanzig et al., U.S. 5,614,580 (Zanzig '580) or Agostini et al., U.S. 5,674,932 (Agostini '932). These rejections are traversed.

Applicants agree with the Examiner insofar as the disclosure in Colvin EP '042 differs from the current claims in that the point of entry of ZnO in the mixing process of Colvin EP '042 is not specified, while in the current claims ZnO is included specifically in the productive stage of mixing, and is specifically excluded in the non-productive stage. However, Applicants do not agree with the Examiner that one having ordinary skill in the art would find it obvious to arrive at the present claims, i.e., to add ZnO in the productive stage, "because there is a limited number of options to the procedure, i.e., ZnO can be added either in the non-productive stage or in the productive stage."